ERIC Document Resume	See Instruction Sheet	DATE OF RESUME	DATE RECEIVED

A. PUBLICATION DATA

1. ERIC NUMBER	2. ORIGINATOR CONTROL NO(S).	3. IDENTIFICATION NO.	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACE BELOW
ED001544	N.A.	N.A.	

4. AUTHOR(S):
Cohen, S. Alan and Cloward, Robert D.

5. TITLE OF DOCUMENT ABSTRACTED:
Basic Test of Reading Comprehension

6. PUBLICATION TITLE:
N.A.

7. EDITOR(S):
N.A.

8. PLACE OF ORIGIN
Mobilization for Youth
ORG.
214 East Second Street
ST.
New York 9, N.Y.
CITY, STATE

9. PUBLISHER OR SOURCE
Mobilization for Youth, Inc., 214 East Second Street, New York 9, New York

10. VOL.	11. PAGES	12. MO./YR.	13. TOTAL PP.
N.A.	N.A.	N.A.	13

TELE. EXT.
INST/LOC CODE

MICROFILM COPY AVAILABLE
YES ☒ NO ☐

COPYRIGHT GRANTED
YES ☐ NO ☒

COPYRIGHT RELEASE FILED
YES ☐ NO ☐

TYPE OF REPORT
PROPOSAL ☐
IN-PROGRESS ☒
FINAL ☐
FOLLOW-UP ☐

OTHER ERIC REFERENCES:

ERIC SATELLITE CODE

B. INDEXING DATA

14. SUBJECT AREA

15. TYPE OF ENDEAVOR
test

16. INDEXING TERMS (6-12)

reading comprehension	language arts			
elementary school	testing and measurement			
reading speed	Mobilization for Youth			

17. ABSTRACT (MAX. 250 WORDS)

The test was designed to assess speed of reading comprehension. It consisted of numbered passages, one to three sentences in length, arranged in paragraph form to simulate the normal reading exercise. Toward the end of each passage, a word was inserted which spoiled the meaning of the passage. The pupils were instructed to find the word that spoiled meaning and cross it out. Thus with a correct response it could be inferred that the pupil was able to comprehend the meaning of the passage.

An example of the test was (1) In the summer we play in the snow. (2) The dog bit Jane on the leg. The bite made Jane very happy. (3) Pat has a fast car. Every day he takes his slow car to school. A teachers' guide and answer sheet are included.

ERIC No.

18. SOURCE OF ABSTRACT

C. FUNDING DATA

19. SUPPORTING ORGANIZATION	20. DIVISION OR DEPT.	21. CONTRACT NO. / PROJECT NO.
	22. TOTAL COST OF PROJECT	
	23. DURATION OF PROJECT	U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare Office of Education

ERIC Form 1

REPRINTED BY PERMISSION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION AND WELFARE
OFFICE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN PRINTED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL CENTER ON THE DISADVANTAGED
Ferkauf Graduate School of Education, Yeshiva University

L39

MF1

ED001544

BASIC TEST OF READING COMPREHENSION
Form I

NAME OF PUPIL: ---------- ---------- (First Name) (Last Name)

TODAY'S DATE: --------

SCHOOL: ---------- GRADE: ---------- CLASS: -------

WHAT IS YOUR TEACHER'S NAME? ----------

WHEN IS YOUR BIRTHDAY? ----------

DIRECTIONS

Do not turn this page until you are told to do so.

This test is like a game. Your teacher will tell you how to do it. Listen carefully. Here are some examples:

(1) In the summer we play in the snow. (2) The dog bit Jane on the leg. The bite made Jane very happy. (3) Pat has a fast car. Every day he takes his slow car to school. (4) I have some red apples in my house. Let's go in and ride them. (5) My dress is green. Look at my pretty red dress. (6) My teacher gave me a new book. It was the best book I ever ate.

DO NOT TURN THIS PAGE UNTIL YOU ARE TOLD TO DO SO.

(All rights reserved by S.Alan Cohen and Robert D.Cloward, Mobilization For Youth, Inc., 214 East Second Street, New York 9, New York)

(1) Bob goes to the baseball game and he buys hot dogs. He likes to eat hot dogs because they taste so bad. (2) Once there was a bird who lived in a red bird house way up in a tree. He liked his red dog house. (3) You must brush your teeth every morning and every night. That way your hands will look clean when you smile. (4) My dog wags his tail when I come home. He's happy to see me. He always wags his tail when he's sad.

(5) When it is raining my mother makes me wear a big rain hat. It helps to keep the sun off my head. (6) My mother helped me make the bright red dress that I have on. Don't you think it sees pretty on me? (7) The snow has been falling all day. When we go in we will have to brush the white air off our clothes. (8) My dog has five puppies now. They all have soft brown fur and long tails. I like my five brown kittens.

(9) My mother gave me a dollar. She told me to go to the store and buy some money with it. (10) Today I hurt my hand on a big hot pipe. It hurt so much that it made me laugh very hard. (11) On cold days I pull my hat over my ears. That way I can be sure I will keep my hands warm. (12) I have a brown coat. I want a hat to match. So, I will look for a hat with the same blue color.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

(13) I have a big window in my house. I sit by that little window and watch the cars go by. (14) Up the tree goes the little bird. At the top he sings a song. I love to hear little cats sing. (15) While I was playing in the woods with friends, I fell down and hurt my leg. Will you break it for me? (16) Mother gives the little girl a bell to play with. The little girl is pleased and eats it all day.

(17) John finds a young puppy with big brown eyes and a wet nose. He takes the old dog home with him. (18) My father grows corn in his fields. If it is a good year he will have a lot of wheat to sell. (19) We went for a drive in the country. We liked the trip very much. We had such a hard time. (20) My baby sister threw ink on the floor. My mother had to wash the ink off the tree with rags.

(21) The milkman drives a truck and brings us milk. When I grow up I want to be a fireman like him. (22) My teacher always smiles for everyone. She is so cross that all the children like her very much. (23) Maybe it will rain. It looks so very cloudy outside. I will wear my rain clothes to keep wet. (24) Mary has lost her pen. Since her teacher likes her to write in ink, she gives Mary a pencil.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

(25) When you mail your letter, put a stamp on it. It will not go unless it has a box on it. (26) Sam's hair was so long that it hung over his eyes. He went to the paint shop to get his hair cut. (27) Hot water and soap clean things best. If you have dirty hands, use plenty of soap and cold water. (28) When you cross a street, you must always look both ways to make sure that there are no fast boats coming.

(29) I like to watch the children's shows on TV. So, I turn my clock on every night to watch them. (30) Mary waters her plants. If she gives them water, her dress will grow big and have pretty flowers. (31) I have a dog named King. He plays outside all day. At night, I bring him in because he talks too much. (32) Poor Tom fell down and hurt his knee. The doctor put a big button on it to stop the bleeding.

(33) Most books are printed on white paper because it is easier to read print on black paper. (34) Cars must have their lights on at night so the drivers will be able to hear where they are going. (35) George has hit his hand with a hammer. It must hurt a lot because he is in his room laughing. (36) Yesterday it was very cold and windy. We had to put ice on the fire to keep warm.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

(37) When it is very cold and there is snow on the streets, I must wear my boots to keep my hands warm. (33) My aunt keeps the cookie jar high up on a shelf. It is much too far down for me to reach it. (39) I have six white cards with big black numbers on them. Can you read the big numbers on my six cats. (40) Here is a book for you to read. You will like it because it has easy words and hard pictures.

(41) It was a hot and windy day. I had to close the windows to keep the snow from coming in. (42) You can easily tell that they are very close friends because they are so mean to each other. (43) Johnny gave a big apple to his teacher. She said, "Thank you. I shall eat your orange for lunch." (44) My big sister takes singing lessons. I like to hear her sing because she has such a bad voice.

(45) When I bring my dog to school, he can not come in because cats are not allowed in school. (46) We have to wait for the hot bowl of soup to cool before we can eat it with our forks. (47) I like boats because they travel on the water. It would be great fun to go to sea in a train. (48) We have a cherry tree in our back yard. The birds eat the plums off it before we can pick them.

GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE

(49) The batter hit the baseball hard with his bat. But the catcher caught the cat with his baseball mitt. (50) I see smoke coming from the roof of a house. I run to the mail box to pull the fire alarm. (51) Martha is making a dress. She cuts the cloth with her saw and her mother sews it together. (52) When my neighbor's washing machine breaks down, she has to call a policeman to come and fix it.

(53) George is very fond of sweet things to eat. He puts lots of pepper on his breakfast cereal. (54) Charles caught the football and started for a touchdown. The crowd cheered loudly as he walked down the field. (55) Mike and Mary like to go fishing. Last week Mary caught the biggest fish with her hammer. (56) Rita played the horn in the band. When the leader raised his hands to start the music, Rita blew her nose.

(57) There is a deep pool of cool water in the river. It is fun to swim in the hot water. (58) When I opened my piggy bank and counted all my pennies, I had ten dollars in quarters. (59) Today I walked five miles to see my friend. I was tired after running such a long way. (60) Sam was high up on a ladder with his hammer. He fell off the high hammer and hurt his foot.

(61) Bill draws big pictures. He colors them with paints. Then he hangs the brushes on the wall for all to see. (62) A red fox was chasing our chickens. Father shot the fox to keep the man from killing our chickens. (63) Last night we went outside to look at the moon and the stars. The sun could be seen shining brightly. (64) Last summer we went on a camping trip. We slept on the air just like the indians use to do.

(65) Our country's flag is red, white and blue. It has stars on it. I love to see it washing in the wind. (66) Someone has marked my desk with a knife. it is cut so deep I find it hard to write on my chair. (67) When ever you need a cup of sugar you can go next door and borrow some salt from your friends. (68) In the wintertime we have a war with snowballs. We build forts of snow and throw rocks at each other.

(69) Save your money by putting it in a bank. that way your water will be there when you need it. (70) We made a bed in a box for our dog. Now our dog will not have to eat on the hard cold floor. (71) Our baker made cookies this morning. When they are cool I hope that he will give us none to eat. (72) I help mother by washing dishes in the sink. I have to break them to get them very clean.

INFORMATION RETRIEVAL CENTER ON THE DISADVANTAGED
Ferkauf Graduate School of Education, Yeshiva University

MOBILIZATION FOR YOUTH

Directions for Administering

THE BASIC TEST OF READING COMPREHENSION

The Basic Test of Reading Comprehension (BTRC) is an experimental instrument developed by Mobilization for Youth as a part of its Homework Helper Program. The instrument is oriented toward the assessment of speed of reading comprehension, as contrasted with the usual "power" comprehension test.

The test consists of numbered passages one to three sentences in length, arranged in paragraph form so as to simulate the normal reading exercise. Toward the end of each passage, a word has been inserted which spoils the meaning of the passage. The pupils are instructed to find the word that spoils the meaning in each passage and cross it out. Thus, with a correct response it may be inferred that the pupil was able to comprehend the meaning of the passage.

Since the BTRC utilizes an item modality that is not familiar to most children it is extremely important that the children understand the directions before they are permitted to begin the test. In the interests of clarity, the examiner may feel free to deviate from the wording of the directions given below. However, it is essential that the following points are covered:

1. The test is fun to take.
2. Each passage or story contains only one word which spoils the meaning of the passage.
3. The "wrong" word will always be near the end of the passage - never near the beginning.
4. The child is to find and cross out the word that is wrong.
5. The test is timed.

The test has been written with a third grade vocabulary and second grade logic. We expect low second grade readers will scale on the test.

READ:

Now you are going to take a reading test. It is very much like a game. You will enjoy taking it. I am going to pass out the test booklets. Do not open them until I tell you to do so. I will tell you how to fill out the information on the front of your booklet.

(Give the children instructions for completing the identifying data on the front of the booklet. Use the blackboard for illustration.)

Continued.

THE BASIC TEST OF READING COMPREHENSION:

Now let me tell you how to take this test. On the front page of your test booklet you will see some sentences with numbers in front of them. Put your finger on them. (Check to make sure the pupils find the sample items.) The words between these numbers tell a story. Near the end of each story there is one word that spoils the meaning of the story. You are to find that word, the one that spoils the meaning, and cross it out by drawing an "X" through it.

Let's read the first one out loud together. (Read with the children) ("IN THE SUMMER WE PLAY IN THE SNOW") -- which word toward the end spoils the meaning of this story? (Wait for response.) That is right, the word "snow" is wrong, because we do not have snow in the summertime. Notice the word "summer" is not wrong because it is near the beginning of the story. "Snow" is wrong, so cross out the word "snow" by putting an "X" on it.

Now look at number two. Notice that there are two sentences in this story. The word that spoils the meaning will be in the second sentence, not in the first. Lets read number two together (2."THE DOG BIT JANE ON THE LEG. THE BITE MADE JANE VERY HAPPY.") Which word spoils the meaning of the story? (Wait for response.) That's right, "happy" is wrong. Cross out the word "happy" by putting a large "X" on it.

Now let's do number three. (3. "PAT HAS A FAST CAR. EVERY DAY HE DRIVES HIS SLOW CAR TO SCHOOL.") Which word toward the end of the story is wrong? (Wait for response.) That's right, "slow" is wrong because the first part of the story said Pat's car was fast. So, you should cross out the word "Slow".

Now read number four to your-self silently. Find the word toward the end that spoils the meaning of the story and cross it out. (Pause). Which word did you cross out? (Wait for response.) That's right. The word "ride" is wrong because we don't ride apples, we eat them.

CONTINUED.

THE BASIC TEST OF READING COMPREHENSION:

Now do number five by your-self. (Pause). Which word is wrong? (Wait for response.) That's right, "red" is wrong because the first part of the story said the dress was green.

Now do the last one. (Pause). Which word did you cross out? (Wait for response.) That's right. The word "ate" spoils the meaning of the story and should be crossed out. (Check to make sure the children have made the correct responses.)

On the pages that follow there are more of these numbered stories. Each has only one word that is wrong, and the wrong word will be near the end of the story. You are to find it and cross it out. As soon as you finish one page, you are to go on to the next page. You will have only five minutes, so don't spend too much time on any one story.

Are there any questions about how to take the test? (Wait for response.)

Remember, cross out only one word in each story, the word toward the end that spoils the meaning of the story.

READY! TURN THE PAGE AND BEGIN.

After the test has begun, circulate and check papers to make sure the children are taking the test proprerly. You must not tell children the meaning of words they cannot read. Instead, encourage them to figure out the words for themselves. If a child is crossing out words at the beginning rather than the end of the stories, you should explain the instructions to the child again. Encourage pupils who have given up to try the next item.

STOP THE TEST PRECISELY AT THE END OF FIVE (5) MINUTES

Scoring Procedures

The Basic Test yields two scores: the number of items correct and the number of items attempted. The "number of items attempted" is defined as the item number of the last item on which the pupil has made a response, whether correct or not. Thus, lower numbered items that have been left blank are included in the "items attempted" score. Sample items are not to be included in either score. However, if the pupil has responded incorrectly on the sample items, the validity of the test may be impugned on the grounds that the pupil probably did not understand the directions.

If a pupil makes two or more responses on an item, the item should be scored as incorrect even though one of the two responses was correct. Occasionally, pupil will respond to the test in a mechanical way by systematically marking the last word in each sentence or the last word in each item. In most cases, the pupil does so because he cannot read. In any event, the test is invalid for that pupil.

Scoring procedures often may be facilitated by marking the correct responses in a blank booklet and using this as a key. When a large number of booklets are to be scored, it usually is faster to score the same page in all booklets rather than scoring all pages in each booklet. After the booklets have been scored, the number of items left blank or marked wrong may be deducted from the number of items completed to obtain the "number correct" score.

The correct response for each of the items on the two forms of the test are listed on the pages that follow.

FORM 1 CORRECT RESPONSES

PAGE 1

1. ball
2. dog
3. hands
4. sad
5. sun
6. sees
7. air
8. kittens
9. money
10. laugh
11. hands
12. blue

PAGE 2

13. little
14. cats
15. break
16. eats
17. old
18. wheat
19. hard
20. tree
21. fireman
22. cross
23. wet
24. pencil

PAGE 3

25. box
26. paint
27. cold
28. boats
29. clock
30. dress
31. talks
32. button
33. black
34. hear
35. laughing
36. ice

PAGE 4

37. hands
38. down
39. cats
40. hard
41. snow
42. mean
43. orange
44. bad
45. cats
46. forks
47. train
48. plums

PAGE 5

49. cat
50. mail
51. saw
52. policeman
53. pepper
54. walked
55. hammer
56. nose
57. hat
58. quarters
59. running
60. hammer

PAGE 6

61. brushes
62. man
63 sun
64. air
65. washing
66. chair
67. salt
68. rocks
69. water
70. eat
71. none
72. break

FORM 2 CORRECT RESPONSES

PAGE 1

1. box
2. slide
3. careful
4. colder
5. salt
6. ear
7. sing
8. fire
9. dirty
10. gone
11. rocks
12. flower

PAGE 2

13. low
14. running
15. minutes
16. drown
17. thumb
18. water
19. softly
20. clothes
21. garbage
22. apart
23. fisherman
24. car

PAGE 3

25. pears
26. plane
27. fingers
28. boys
29. red
30. chicken
31. mean
32. smoke
33. hard
34. letters
35. ring
36. eat

PAGE 4

37. water
38. hammer
39. say
40. green
41. name
42. talks
43. hat
44. eat
45. bugs
46. milk
47. water
48. cat

PAGE 5

49. smile
50. wet
51. cross
52. postman
53. break
54. trouble
55. weeds
56. cat
57. big
58. smell
59. arm
60. grows

PAGE 6

61. hear
62. blue
63. bad
64. my
65. snow
66. smells
67. write
68. brown
69. sell
70. shoes
71. man
72. joy